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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,405	09/24/2003	Susan I. Shelso	29985/02-029	7930

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EXAMINER

PRONE, CHRISTOPHER D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.

10/670.405

Applicant(s)

SHELSON, SUSAN I.

Examiner

Christopher D. Prone

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically in claims 1 and 11 on lines 9 and 5, the applicant recites that the "distal end of the inner shaft is *proximally remote* from the distal end of the outer shaft." According to Merriam Webster's Dictionary the word "proximally" is an adverb defined as being "close to." The commonly accepted meaning of "remote" according to Merriam Webster is "separated or far removed in space." Therefore current claim language contradicts itself because the two components cannot be both close together and far apart from each other at the same time making the claims indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,634,928 Fischell et al.

In regards to claims 1-19 Fischell discloses the same invention being a catheter (10), a handle comprising an inner tube (13), and outer tube (24), and a rigid member (11) which protrudes beyond the distal end of the inner shaft, a sheath (20) comprising a stepped end (72) and a valve (58), and a stent (40) shown in figures 1-4I of Fischell.

In regards to claim 20 Fischell discloses all of the claimed structural requirements and a method of using his catheter described in column 6 on line 14 through column 8 line 6.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/20/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant has a series of arguments, the first of which is that Fischell fails to disclose a fixedly connected inner shaft and rigid inner member. However Fischell clearly discloses an inner shaft (13) that is fixed to the rigid inner member (11). The applicant argues that since the balloon is elastic that the connection is not fixed. This is not true, because when interpreting the word fixedly by its broadest reasonable definition it simply means securely placed, the rigid member is securely placed within the inner shaft and remains connected to it by means of the balloon.

The applicant further argues that the inner shaft of Fischell is not rigid and cites a section of Fischell's specification describing the inner shaft's tip as having flexible

characteristics. However this is just the tip that is flexible. The rest of the inner shaft is considered to be rigid.

The applicant further argues that Fischell fails to disclose a position wherein the inner shaft is proximally remote of the outer shaft. However as described above this matter is considered to be indefinite because the terms proximally and remote contradict each other.

The applicant's final argument is that Fischell fails to teach the use of an inner shaft disposed within an outer shaft and the use of that outer shaft to retract a sheath. However as can be seen in figure 3 of Fischell the sheath (20) is slidable upon the outer tube (24), which contains an inner shaft (13).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Prone whose telephone number is (571) 272-6085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Fri 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CP
CDP

Thomas Bennett
Primary Examiner

Christopher D Prone
Examiner
Art Unit 3738